



Upper Blue Mountains Conservation Society Inc Newsletter

Number 89

October 1992

Meetings are held in the new Conservation Hut at the end of Fletcher Street, Wentworth Falls, on the last Friday of each month at 7.30pm. Please bring a cushion or chair until the furnishings are complete.



October 30

JIM SMITH ... 'GREENWAYS'

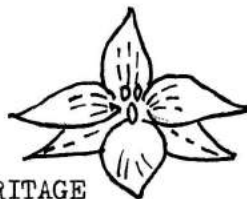
November 27

DANNY WOTHERSPOON ... 'SNAKES OF THE BLUE MOUNTAINS'

January 29, 1993

ALAN LOBB

... 'NATIVE ORCHIDS OF THE BLUE MOUNTAINS'



PLANT SALE: Sunday 8 November
9.30 at The Hut.

STOP PRESS

BLUE MOUNTAINS FOR WORLD HERITAGE

Enclosed in this issue is a leaflet to encourage you to do your bit and write to whomever is Prime Minister or Premier at the time, and to other sources named on the pamphlet, in support of the grand aim to have the Blue Mountains declared a World Heritage area. The nomination is gaining support from National Parks and Wildlife Service, Council and Tourism authorities and other environmental and conservation groups.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Janet and Barry Walsh, John Ewing, Jim and Audrey Beeney, Heather Hastie, Gloria McDonald, Trude Kalir, Jennifer Hely, Malcolm King, and Elizabeth Watsford.

NEWS OF OLD FRIENDS

Some of us remember the wombat, the snake and the wallaby who inhabited the old Hut, with their friends the birds' nests, fossils and spiders. Wombat has sent word that he and some of his friends have found a new home with Margaret Baker, who will ensure that they have a comfortable and useful future in educating a new generation of Conservationists.



GRAND HERITAGE WALK AND FESTIVAL

By now we should all know of the Grand Footsteps Festival planned for October. We've seen Wyn Jones on TV and read about it in the Gazette. The aim is to raise awareness and money to stop the extinction of wildlife and to have the Blue Mountains declared a World Heritage area.

The main event is a walk through National Parks from Muswellbrook to Mittagong. Members of this society plan to take part and would welcome sponsors.

Here are dates and information to show how we can help in the Festival.

- | | |
|----------------------|---|
| Saturday, 17 October | Mount Wilson Gardens open. Any volunteers for gate-sitting duty? 10 am - 1pm and 1pm - 4pm. |
| Sunday, 18 October | ART in Kingsford Smith Park. 11am. Conservation Society has been asked to have our own information stall. Any volunteers, please? |
| Friday 23 October | Bluegum Bush Ball at Blackheath Community Centre. 7.30 pm. Bring basket supper. |
| Saturday 24 October | Ashok Rathor dinner at Conservation Hut at 7.30pm. \$15. Farewell to walkers. |

Inquiries and bookings at Shop 13 Town Centre Arcade, 81 Katoomba St, Katoomba, 10 am - 4pm. Phone 82 6277 and 82 6156

REPORTS

The Blue Mountains District Weeds Committee is being resurrected. David Coleby is our representative. 84 1395.

Land Preservation Fund. Two avenues are still being explored for an appropriate disposal of precious funds amounting to about \$38,000 at the moment. The portions being looked at have to meet our strict requirements.



Nursery Report. The Spring Plant Sale is on Sunday November 8 at the Conservation Hut, beginning at 9.30 am and not before.

We were unsuccessful in our bid for an Environmental Trust Grant. Work is proceeding to schedule. The Society acknowledges the help of tireless members who always give with a good grace.

Environment Grant. Surplus cash from plant sales and nursery activities is being offered to the community in the form of a grant. \$2,000 is being offered by advertisement to individuals and groups to forward work on the care of "our precious heritage", the Upper Blue Mountains, and research connected with this or innovative community education for the practice of conservation. Closing date for applications is November 15 1992. Information and application forms from P.O.Box 29, Wentworth Falls, or Robin Corringham, 58 6561.

ENVIRONMENTAL LAW WORKSHOP. The Environmental Defenders' Office (NSW) is a non-profit community legal centre specialising in public interest environmental law. Periodically, workshops are conducted at country centres. Your management committee is negotiating with the Office to host a workshop next autumn. Subjects may include: What is environmental

law?, nature conservation law, pollution law, Government or community roles and so on. It will probably be held on a Saturday at the Conservation Hut. We'll keep you posted.

This Society in the 1990s. An End of Century Manifesto is being developed by the Management Committee to guide the Society in its activities. The aim of the exercise is not so much to change direction but to formalise our targets and to make efficient use of our resources. The principal resource is a small nucleus of dedicated members. To achieve the most modest goal this has to be enlarged. You and your ideas are essential. Please tell us or write your suggestions, and how you can be a part of the team, so that the Society can advance. The next step is up to you.

LAND USE COMMITTEE REPORT

Items from the work of this committee in the last quarter are as follows:

Mt Boyce: Civil Aviation Authority has begun construction of a communication tower despite opposition from the Society and the Blue Mountains City Council (BMCC).

Lilianfels Park, Echo Pt. Representation made to BMCC for a correctly designed surface water drain.

Katoomba Falls Catchment: Suggestions to consultant for a suitable memorial to Aborigine presence, to be focused on a watercourse or pool and for that site to be the pivot of bush restoration.

Hester Rd. Leura: Advised BMCC about incorrect methods in domestic sewer line connection.


Peckman's Rd. Katoomba: Further complaint to Water Board about shoddy work on sewerage pipeline and ineffective erosion control.

Kanangra-Boyd Wilderness assessment received - available for perusal.

To BMCC: Another letter re in-house training for outdoor staff in principles of erosion control. We have been pressing this for four years,

Minni-ha-ha Reserve, Kat. Attended information day hosted by M-h-h Land Care group. Recommend that all help be given to this group.

To BMCC: Letter re loss of urban green space through Highway widening. We ask for recompense from Roads and Traffic Authority. Copies to Mr B. Morris, M.H.R. and all alderpersons. No reply to date.

 BLUE GUM FOREST, GROSE VALLEY: PLEASE NOTE: The Nat. Parks Service is conducting a workshop on Saturday 10 Oct., 10 am - 3pm at Blackheath Heritage Centre, to plan a management strategy for the Forest's conservation. Please try to be there. Contact Muriel Healey, 58 6575.

Sewerage Transfer Station, Lawson: We asked for reconsideration of some of the drain designs, particularly those above a hanging swamp. Also asked for better noise controls - Lawson members be aware.

Educational Establishment, Evans Lookout Rd. Blackheath: Minor comment only.

To BMCC and all government agencies: Reminder about the necessity to care for Blue Mountains Ash trees.



MEMBERS' PAGE

ANTECHINUS

We recently moved to Lawson in a built-up area where the backyards are very bare and cleared of native bush. We are allowing the bottom end of our garden to regenerate and there are quite a few natives coming up again. We had to lop a few dead trees but left the stumps and to our surprise and pleasure we believe that an Antechinus has made a home in the base of one of the stumps where there is a wild bird feeder, so the birds drop a lot of seed. We have only seen a little brown nose occasionally when we leave some oats there. We have placed a hollow log at the entrance and covered the opening with wire to protect the mouse from the many cats which come into the yard to stalk it. We hope it will survive and rear some young ones.

June Blick.

THE SWAGMAN AT HEAVEN'S GATE

Saint Peter put his quartpot down and rubbed his saintly eyes,
As through the clouds came a figure bowed, pursued by swarms of flies;
Came tramping up to Heaven's gate
And stood there in amaze.
He dropped his swag and tuckerbag
And said, "Well, spare me days!
I've humped this old Matilda since the age of seventeen.
There's not a track in the great outback that we two haven't seen.
So when I rolled me final swag I thought I'd cleaned the slate -
But stone the crows! Before me nose I see another gate!"



"In fifty years of tramping and covering all the while
Twelve miles a day, at least to say, with two gates to the mile-
I'm not much good at figures but the way I calculate
In my career I've opened near on fifty thousand gates.
There was gates that fairly haunt me, there was gates of every sort,
Sagging gates and dragging gates; high, low, long and short.
Gates that seemed to challenge you and gates that seemed to grin -
Lazy gates and crazy gates that hung by half a hinge."

"Gates tied up with fencing wire and gates with fancy scrolls,
With patent catch and home-made latch, and gates made out of poles.
Wide gates and narrow gates, big barriers and small,
Rusted gates and busted gates - I've wrestled with them all.
Now I've opened them and shut 'em till the sight of all I hate,
And I'd sooner miss yer Heavenly bliss than open that there gate!
What's that you say? You'll open it! Well, that's what I call nice!
And close it too when I've got through? This MUST be Paradise!"

By Anonymous

THE POOL OF SILOAM

Recently Dulcie Toseland led a walk to the Pool of Siloam at Leura. She approached it from the Links Lookout, a new way for most of us. This lookout is seldom visited and perches high on the cliff between Gordon Falls and Sublime Point. The path from there pleats down to the lovely Pool of Siloam. Dulcie read a potted history of the pool for which this one is named. Siloam was one of the principal sources of water for ancient Jerusalem and is mentioned several times in the Bible. In the Gospel of John (ch.9) there is a story of the healing of a blind man at this pool; this was one of the miracles of Jesus. Dulcie always tries to find the meaning behind the names of our Blue Mountains beauty spots, and this is appreciated.

EXCURSION PROGRAMME

It is essential on all excursions in the hot weather that members carry at least 1 litre of water. Please carry on all walks: First Aid Kit, Torch, Matches, Warm shirt or Sweater, Protective Rainwear, Hat. Wear safe footwear

All people attending excursions do so at their own risk

Members arriving by train should advise contact prior to the excursion. Train timetable on week-days might be altered. Walks starting times and meeting places will remain as stated.

October 15, Thursday: Mystery wildflower walk. Meet 9.30 am behind Springwood Library. Contact, Alan Macaulay, 39 2767.

October 17, Saturday: Burra-Kurrarn Flats. Meet Mt Victoria station carpark at 8.30 am. Contact, Olive Noble, 87 8342.

November 1, Sunday: Belltrees property. Meet Mt Victoria station carpark at 9 am. Contact, David Thomas 84 2121.

November 19, Thursday: Pulpit Rock area. Meet Mt Victoria station carpark at 10 am. Contact, Rachel Makinson 87 1302.

November 21, Saturday: Bird watching. Meet Blackheath station carpark at 10 am. Contact, Bob Jones 58 8361. Birdman is Graham Alcorn.

December 6, Sunday: **** Christmas gathering at The Hut, Fletcher St Wentworth Falls, at 10 am. Short walk to Lyrebird Lookout. Bring own lunch, boiling water supplied. No barbecues. There will be a trading table, so bring and buy.

December 17, Thursday: Darwins Walk. Meet Wentworth Falls station carpark at 10 am. Contact, Bob Jones 58 8361.

December 19, Saturday: Grand Canyon. Meet Blackheath Station carpark at 9 am. Contact, Olive Noble 87 8342.

1993

January 3, Sunday: South Hazelbrook area. Meet H'brook station carpark at 9.15 am. Contact, Ron Wheeler 57 1526.

January 16, Saturday: Mystery Walk. Meet Mt Victoria station carpark at 8.30 am. Contact, John Noble 87 8342

January 21, Thursday: Den Fenella. Meet Wentworth Falls station carpark at 10 am. Contact, Bob Jones 58 8361.

Here are some important announcements which almost missed the bus.

Saturday, 7 November: Breakfast Celebration for those who have worked on Hut duty over the years. Come at 8.30 am and a delicious breakfast will be provided. Inquiries, Bev Thompson 57 2076.

Friends of the Nursery, you are invited to lunch with the Nursery workers at Govetts Leap at 12 noon on Tuesday 8 December (1992). BYO lunch. (58 6561)

Finally, our Society has a 'presence' again at the Conservation Hut. Though still not officially open as a tearoom, the NPWS is pleased to allow us to serve the public with friendly information and to offer facilities for tea or coffee. Hours are Sat. and Sun. 11 am - 3pm. Volunteers are needed. We have been welcomed back by the public. Come along and see your friends.

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UPPER BLUE MOUNTAINS CONSERVATION SOCIETY. P.O.Box 29, Wentworth Falls. 2782

Membership / Renewal Form

Name.....

Address.....

.....

Family \$15 per year

Single \$10 " "

Pensioner Family \$10 " "

Single Pensioner \$6 " "

Membership corresponds to the year April 1991 to 31 March 1992. Please enclose stamped addressed envelope if a receipt is required.